

## **LISTING OF THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. *(Currently Amended)* An optical element ~~consisting of~~ comprising:  
a transparent insulating substrate;  
a circuitry layer on the insulating substrate, said circuitry layer including an active polysilicon layer;  
a plurality of pixels; and  
~~an only a single~~ opaque optical shielding layer serving as a black matrix body disposed to ~~lie~~ between the insulating substrate ~~layer~~ and the active polysilicon layer; ~~wherein the opaque shielding layer shields the polysilicon layer from light incident upon the insulating substrate layer and functions to block the incident light from leaking between adjacent pixels; wherein the optical element does not include a shield above the circuitry layer that functions to block the incident light from leaking between adjacent pixels; and wherein the optical element is part of a liquid crystal display.~~

Claim 2 (*Canceled*).

3. *(Original)* The optical element of claim 1 wherein the shielding layer comprises a material that is unaffected by exposure to temperatures up to 1,100°C.

Claims 4-23 (*Canceled*).

24. *(Previously Presented)* The optical element of claim 1, wherein the optical shielding layer is comprised of a light reflective material.

Claim 25 (*Canceled*).

26. *(Currently Amended)* The optical element of claim 1, wherein the optical shielding layer is comprised ~~either~~ of silicon nitride, layers of silicon oxide and silicon nitride, ~~and~~ or a refractory metal encapsulated in a suitable barrier layer.

27. *(Currently Amended)* The optical element of claim 26, wherein the refractory metal comprises ~~either~~ tungsten, cobalt, or titanium.

28. *(Currently Amended)* The optical element of claim 26, wherein the barrier layer comprises ~~either~~ tungsten silicide, tungsten nitride, or titanium nitride.

29. *(Previously Presented)* The optical element of claim 26, further comprising a cap over said barrier layer.

30. *(Currently Amended)* The optical element of claim 26, wherein the cap comprises ~~either~~ silicon oxide, silicon nitride, or silicon oxynitride.

31. *(Previously Presented)* The optical element of claim 26, further comprising an adhesive layer disposed between the refractory metal and the transparent insulating substrate.

32. *(Previously Presented)* The optical element of claim 31, wherein the adhesive is comprised of a titanium/titanium nitride laminate.